

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01

ACDA-07 L-03 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 ERDA-05 /094 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:DGBROWN:BDS

APPROVED BY OES/NET:MKRATZER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220625

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, IAEA, TW

SUBJECT: REPROCESSING IN ROC

1. ROC EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR SUNG CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KRATZER AUGUST 31 TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S DISMAY CONCERNING RECENT PRESS REPORTS ABOUT CLANDESTINE REPROCESSING ON TAIWAN. SUNG STATED THAT THE REPORTS WERE UNTRUE, THAT THE ROC HAD NO INTENTION OF DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THAT THE ROC WAS A PARTY TO THE NPT, THAT NUCLEAR FACILITIES ON TAIWAN WERE OPEN TO IAEA INSPECTION (AND TO US OFFICIALS SHOULD THAT BE DESIRED) AND THAT THE RECENT IAEA INSPECTION HAD UNCOVERED NO IRREGULARITIES. SUNG MENTIONED THAT ROC HAD MADE A MAJOR COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION, WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY PROVIDE AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT OF ISLAND'S ELECTRIC CAPACITY, AND THAT ROC DID NOT WISH TO DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE THIS PROGRAM.

2. KRATZER REGRETTED THAT THESE STORIES HAD APPEARED
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IN PRESS BUT COMMENTED THAT THEY REFLECTED THE GROWING

PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT REPROCESSING ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS. KRATZER SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL -O ROC INTERESTS TO GET AS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT

THE FACTS INTO THE PUBLIC REALM. NOTING THE RECENT IAEA INSPECTION AND THE IAEA'S POLICY NOT TO RELEASE INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH INSPECTIONS, KRATZER ASKED WHETHER ROC WOULD CONSIDER AUTHORIZING IAEA TO GIVE THE USG, AS A SUPPLIER GOVERNMENT, RESULTS OF ITS INSPECTIONS. KRATZER SAID THAT HIS SUGGESTION WAS NOT AIMED PARTICULARLY AT ROC BECAUSE SIMILAR SUGGESTIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS. ROC MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER TO AUTHORIZE THE IAEA TO RELEASE PUBLICLY SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE INSPECTIONS IN ORDER TO HELP ALLAY PUBLIC DOUBTS. SUNG SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THIS SUGGESTION TO CAEC CHAIRMAN, VICTOR CHENG.

3. SUNG ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF ROC'S REQUEST FOR A SAFEGUARDABILITY DETERMINATION FOR THE INER REPROCESSING LABORATORY WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO BEGIN REPROCESSING SPENT FUEL FROM TSINGHWA REACTOR. KRATZER SAID THAT REQUEST WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT THAT HE COULD NOT ESTIMATE WHEN AN ANSWER MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING. HE TOLD SUNG THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS IN THE MIDST OF A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF OUR NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICIES AND THAT THIS REVIEW WAS NATURALLY FOCUSSED ON THE CRITICAL AREA OF REPROCESSING. NO DECISIONS COULD BE MADE ON ANY REQUESTS FOR SAFEGUARDABILITY DETERMINATIONS UNTIL AFTER THIS WORLD-WIDE POLICY REVIEW WAS COMPLETED. ROBINSON

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